

Appl. No. 09/820,504
Atty. Docket No. 9116/552 (8444)
Amdt. dated 03/10/2005
Reply to Office Action of 02/10/2005
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required, under 35 USC §121, election of a single disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits. Pursuant to this requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention designated in the Office Action as Invention I (corresponding to Claims 1 – 6). Claims are drawn to this invention. This election is made with traverse.

Traversal of Restriction Requirement

The restriction requirement is traversed on the basis that the same general field of search should apply to all or most of the claims in the application and, consequently, it should not be unduly burdensome to examine such claims together during the examination.

If restriction to certain of the claims is still seen as appropriate, Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Groups I, II, III, IV (Claims 13-14 only), and VI be examined and that the claims of Groups IV (Claims 15-18 only) and V be subject to restriction on the basis that: (i) the field of search for the former Groups of claims (I, II, III, IV (13,14 only), and VI) would be the same; and (ii) the field of search for Group IV (15-18) and Group V arguably would be different from the field of search for the former Groups of claims.

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Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement or reformulate the restriction requirement as outlined above. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


Signature

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Customer No. 27752